

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN/BZE:GAGOWEN:RP

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:MWEISSMAN

ARA:HARYAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047189

STADIS//////////

FOR CONSUL GENERAL FROM WEISSMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BH

SUBJECT: CASP - COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S GUIDANCE

1. WITH YOUR CASP DUE IN THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 15, WE HAVE CHOSEN TO SEND THE CUSTOMARY COUNTRY DIRECTOR GUIDANCE BY CABLE THIS YEAR RATHER THAN LETTER.
2. YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED GUIDANCE CONCERNING FORMAT, PROCEDURES, AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION. ONLY OTHER NON-SUBSTANTIVE POINT WE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR BREVITY. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO VITAL US INTEREST AT STAKE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH BELIZE. THIS SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE CONTENT AND LENGTH OF THE CASP. WITH A MAXIMUM OF 20 PAGES ALLOTTED FOR SUCH MAJOR COUNTRIES AS BRAZIL, WE WOULD HOPE THAT BELIZE COULD BE DEALT WITH IN 10 PAGES OR LESS. A CANDID AND TIGHTLY-DRAWN PAPER WILL DRAW MORE ATTENTION AND SERVE US BETTER THAN A LONGER, LESS FOCUSSED EFFORT.

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3. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THIS OFFICE CONSIDERS THAT SOME OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS MIGHT USEFULLY BE DEALT WITH THIS YEAR:

A) WORLD ORDER. DOES OUR PREFERENCE FOR THE STATUS QUO, AS DISCUSSED LAST YEAR, STILL SEEM PRACTICAL, IN VIEW OF THE EVENTS OF 1975 AND THE GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE? WILL OUR PROFESSED NEUTRALITY CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR INTERESTS, OR SHOULD THE USG CONSIDER A MORE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT? WHAT FORM MIGHT THIS TAKE?

B) ECONOMIC/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. IF BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE IS NOW MORE LIKELY, SHOULD WE CONSIDER STEPPING UP TECHNICAL OR OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO THE GOB? HAS THE GOB'S ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY IMPROVED?

C) BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO COUNTER BELIZEAN RESENTMENT OF U.S. POLICY REGARDING THE DISPUTE? SHOULD WE DO ANYTHING?

D) NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. WILL THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC TO THE U.S. BECOME A MAJOR PROBLEM? WHAT MORE CAN OR SHOULD BE DONE TO ATTACK THE TRADE? HOW WILL OTHER U.S. INTERESTS BE AFFECTED BY EFFORTS TO DISRUPT THE TRAFFIC?

4. IN ADDITION TO THESE SPECIFIC ISSUES, YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS BELIZE IN THE CONTEXT OF SOME OF THE POINTS RAISED IN BILL ROGERS' MONTHLY LETTERS AND THE QUESTIONS I DISTRIBUTED AT THE CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN GUATEMALA. WE ARE STILL PLANNING A REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT, AND YOUR INPUT NOW WOULD HELP SHAPE OUR APPROACH TO ITS FORMULATION.

5. DISTRIBUTION OF THIS TELEGRAM HAS BEEN LIMITED TO ARA ONLY. ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING ITS CONTENTS SHOULD BE SIMILARLY RESTRICTED. INGERSOLL

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